

Village of North Chevy Chase Monthly Council Meeting – Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Adrian Andreassi (Chair), conducted in person and through electronic means; also in attendance were Brian Hoffner (Vice Chair); Maury Mechanick (Secretary); Olga Joos (Treasurer) and Jon Macy (Member); Susan Theis (Village Manager); and other residents of VoNCC (list attached)

Secretary’s Report for January 2024 Council Meeting (Mechanick) – Approved.

Treasurer’s Report for January 2024 (Joos) –Approved.

Results for January 2024 included income of \$51,491.51 and operating expenses of \$31,292.69 (including street lighting, waste removal, trees, membership and dues, wages and taxes, professional fees, office and communication, and miscellaneous/100-year celebration). No capital expenditures were incurred during January 2024. Total current assets as of January 2024, consisting of operating balance plus reserves, including APRA funds received, came to \$2,984,763.25.

Action Items:

RFP Composting – Based upon review of the bids provided by four bidders to the RFP issued by Village for composting services, the Council decided that further follow-up with two of the bidders would be warranted, looking towards taking a final decision to award a contract at its March meeting.

Village Code Amendments– In recognition of the importance of maintaining adequate canopy tree coverage throughout the Village, the Village Council provisionally approved an amendment to Section 5-201 of the Village Ordinances (Planting of New Trees) to establish specific policies regarding circumstances in which the Village may plant trees within the Village right of ways and to specify the circumstances in which canopy trees on residential property can be taken down, should be undertaken. In order to ensure that new residents are fully aware of Village permitting procedures, the Council also provisionally approved an amendment to Section 3-212 of the Village Ordinances (Property Ownership) to require disclosure of the Village’s permitting procedures by the owner or agent in connection with the sale of any residential property within the Village. Consistent with the requirements of Section 603 of the Village Charter (Village Ordinances), the text of the amended Ordinances will be disseminated, at least 14 days prior to the next Council meeting, via email to all Village residents, placed on the Village website, and included in the next Village newsletter to allow residents to either submit written comments prior to the next Council meeting or to appear at the next Council meeting to express their views on the proposed amendments prior to their final approval by the Village Council and their taking effect.

Emergency Preparedness Plan – The Council began consideration of the possible need for and potential features of a Village Emergency Preparedness Plan, prompted by a communication on this subject from the Maryland Municipal League. As part of this effort, the Village will also liaise with appropriate Montgomery County and State of Maryland entities as to relative responsibilities in the event of emergency situations.

ARPA Funds –To begin development of concrete plans and contract execution by year-end 2024 for improved Village lighting, as a condition for expenditure of the ARPA funds for this purpose, the Village Council will meet with Scott Watson, a lighting expert who has advised a number of neighboring municipalities on lighting issues. In response to a suggestion from a Village resident, the Council indicated that it remained open to considering other possible projects, including the establishment of one or more pocket parks on land under the control of the Village, should that prove feasible.

Budget 2025 – The Board began initial consideration of the budget for FY 2025 and will review and initial draft of the budget at its March meeting.

Village 100-Year Celebration – The Council continued its discussion of the planned celebration, including consideration of the possibility of having one or more food trucks at the event, as well as possible arrangements for beverages being available attendees.

SSL Registration – The Village Council decided that it should register as an eligible entity for purposes of students being able to earn Student Service Learning (SSL) credits required by the State of Maryland for high school graduation, for appropriate volunteer services to be provided by students to the Village of North Chevy Chase.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Date of next meeting: March 19, 2024

February 20, 2024 Village Council Meeting - Attendees

In Person:

Adrian Andreassi
Olga Joos
Maury Mechanick
Jon Macy
Susan Theis

Via Zoom:

Frank & Ann Cantrel
Carolyn Deal
Helen Santiago Fink
Brian Hoffner
Seamus McClosky
Richard Sherman
Susan Smith
Sandy Tennies